

REMARKS

Claims 1, 6, 12, and 16 have been amended without prejudice.

The office rejected claims 1-6, 8-15 and 17-19 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Restarick et al. (USP 6,684,951). Accordingly, claims 1 and 12 have been amended to include that an electrically conductive cable which puts in the transmission elements into electrical communication is disposed within a passageway formed in the flange. Restarick does not disclose a cable in a passageway formed in the flange. Since this is not taught by Restrick, the Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1 and 12 are now allowable and that since claims 2-6 and 8-11 depend from now allowable base claim 1 and that since claims 13-15 and 17-19 depend from now allowable base claim 12 that these claims are now also now allowable. Claims 6 and 16 have been to be consistent with the amendments made in claims 1 and 12 respectively.

The Office rejected claims 7 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Restarick et al. Since claims 7 depends from now allowable base claim 1 and since claim 16 depends from now allowable base claim 12, the Applicants respectfully submit that claims 7 and 16 are allowable over Restarick.

In view of the arguments and amendments made herein, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

As indicated on the electronic transmittal form, please charge Deposit Account No. 180584 in the amount totaling \$1240, comprising \$790 - the RCE fee under 37 CFR 1.17(e) and \$450 - the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(a)(2) for two months extension for time. It is believed that there are no other fees due at this time. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required at any time during the prosecution of this application without specific authorization, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 180584. If there are any questions concerning the above, please contact the undersigned at (281) 878-5658.

Respectfully submitted,

/Jeffery E. Daly/

Electronically signed by Jeffery E. Daly on January 25, 2007

Reg. No. 44,640

Grant Prideco, L.P.
400 N. Sam Houston Prkwy East
Suite 900
Houston, TX 77060
Ph: 281-878-5658
Fax: 281-878-5720
Email: jeffery.daly@grantprideco.com

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 or by facsimile or electronic transmission to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on the date shown below.

1/25/07
Date

/Jeffery E. Daly/
Electronic Signature